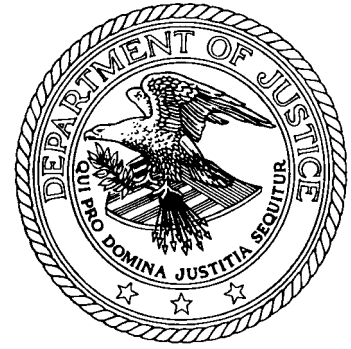


# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

## **San Diego Resident Pleads Guilty to Anthrax Hoax**

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - August 5, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that James Robert Harer pleaded guilty today in federal court in San Diego to one count of mailing threatening communications.

The indictment charged Harer with mailing a threatening letter containing a suspicious white powder on two different occasions in the summer of 2002 to the office of the Internal Revenue Service in the Federal Building in downtown San Diego. Harer directed the threatening letters to an IRS agent who was assigned to audit his tax file. According to Assistant United States Attorney John Parmley, who prosecuted the case, Harer's second threatening letter caused the evacuation of an entire floor of the San Diego Federal Building on the suspicion the envelope contained anthrax. Harer admitted in court today that when he mailed the threatening letters containing the inert white powder, he intended the mailing to be perceived as a threat by the IRS recipient.

United States Attorney Lam stated, “with the difficult challenges that terrorism presents in today’s world, we will not tolerate the use of threats or hoaxes to intimidate law enforcement.”

Sentencing is scheduled before the Honorable Irma E. Gonzalez on October 25, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

**DEFENDANT**

James Robert Harer

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Mailing Threatening Communications in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 876  
Maximum Penalty: Ten years in prison.

**AGENCY**

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA)  
Internal Revenue Service